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ABSTRACT

In 1996, North Carolina established its "ABC" plan for educational improvement, based on accountability (A), testing of basic subjects (B), and more local control (C). Each year student test results in reading, mathematics, writing, and selected middle school and high school courses are analyzed to determine whether or not schools have met goals established in the accountability program. Schools meeting goals are given financial incentive awards that can be distributed as bonuses to the faculty. This report describes ABC results for the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS). The 1998-99 school year was the third year of ABCs results for grades 3 through 8 and the second year for high schools. Sixty-five percent of the county's elementary schools exceeded the "exemplary growth" mark, and none was low-performing. Ninety percent of the middle schools exceeded the exemplary gain mark, and, again, one was in the low-performing category. All of the high schools showed exemplary growth, and one was low-performing. In 1997-98 schools achieving exemplary growth received incentive bonuses equivalent to $1,500 per certified teacher and $500 per teacher assistant. Incentive amounts have not been finalized for 1998-99, but the assumption is that the amounts will be the same. Three tables give the test results for each school. (SLD)

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MEASURING UP

August 5, 1999 E&R Report No. 00.02

1998-99 ABCs Results

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MEASURING UP
WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EVALUATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

1998-99 ABCs Results

August 5, 1999

Authors: Chuck Dulaney and Carol Speas

Background

In 1995, members of the General Assembly decided that public schools in North Carolina were not improving fast enough. As a result, they passed legislation directing the State Board of Education to "examine the structure and functions of the state public school system with a view to improving student performance, to increasing local flexibility and control, and promoting economy and efficiency."

In response to that mandate, the State Board of Education developed the ABCs of Public Education. In 1996, the General Assembly gave the State Board of Education the authority to implement *The ABC Plan*, including authority to set student achievement goals. The plan centers on three components from which the name ABC is derived:

1) School-Based Accountability,
2) Testing of Basic Subjects, and
3) More Local Control.

Each year, student test results in reading, mathematics, writing, and selected middle school and high school courses are analyzed to determine whether or not schools have met goals established in the accountability program. Schools meeting the goals are given financial incentive awards that can be distributed as bonuses to the faculty.

The Accountability Plan

The ABCs program for elementary and middle schools focuses primarily on the average *growth* shown by groups of students on End-of-Grade reading and mathematics tests. Average test results for a group of students at the end of one year are compared to the scores for those same students at the end of the prior year. Writing scores are included for 4th and 7th grade students. Beginning this year, Algebra I results are also added to middle school growth and performance composites.

The high school ABCs program looks primarily at performance ***levels*** on End-of-Course tests in selected subjects. Student scores at the end of the current year are compared to the performance of other students who took the same courses in prior years. A new component, ***growth*** in reading and mathematics from 8th grade to 10th grade, was added in 1999. (In 1999-2000, the high school model will focus on the performance of high school students over time.)

Growth Results

1998-99 was the third year of ABCs results for grades 3-8, and the second year for high schools. For all schools statewide:

- 58% exceeded *exemplary* growth.
- 23% exceeded *expected* growth but did not reach exemplary.
- 18% did not meet expected growth but showed *adequate performance*.
- 1% were *low-performing*.

For WCPSS elementary schools:

- 65% exceeded *exemplary* growth.
- 26% exceeded expected growth.
- 9% did not meet expected growth.
- None was *low-performing*.

For WCPSS middle schools:

- 90% exceeded *exemplary* gain.
- 5% exceeded *expected* gain.
- 5% did not meet expected gain.
- None was *low-performing*.

For WCPSS high schools:

- 100% showed *exemplary* growth.
- None reached *expected* growth.
- None had *adequate* performance.
- None was *low-performing*.

For all WCPSS schools:

- 75% exceeded *exemplary* gain.
- 19% exceeded *expected* gain.
- 7% had *adequate* performance.
- None was *low-performing*.

As shown in the table below, fewer elementary schools but more middle schools and high schools exceeded exemplary growth standards in the third year of the ABCs program in WCPSS. The number of *exemplary* elementary schools in WCPSS increased from 27 in 1997 to 60 in 1998 but decreased to 45 in 1999. The number of *exemplary* middle schools increased from 11 in 1997 to 18 in 1999, while the number of *exemplary* high schools more than doubled from 6 to 13 in only two years.

WCPSS ABCs Growth Results Summary for Three Years, 1997-1999

	Elementary Schools			Middle Schools			High Schools			Total Schools		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
# of Schools in ABCs Program	67	69	69	20	20	20	0	12	13	87	101	102
Schools Meeting Exemplary Growth	27 40%	60 87%	45 65%	11 55%	16 80%	18 90%	N/A	6 50%	13 100%	38 44%	82 81%	76 75%
Schools Meeting Expected Growth	22 33%	7 10%	18 26%	4 20%	3 15%	1 5%	N/A	5 42%	0 0%	26 30%	15 15%	19 19%
Schools Not Meeting Expected Growth	18 27%	2 3%	6 9%	5 25%	1 5%	1 5%	N/A	1 8%	0 0%	23 26%	4 4%	7 6%

As noted earlier, high schools did not participate in the ABCs accountability program in the 1996-97 school year.

In 1997-98, schools achieving *exemplary growth* received incentive bonuses equivalent to $1500 per certified teacher and $500 per teacher assistant. Bonuses for schools meeting *expected growth* were $750 per certified teacher and $375 per teacher assistant. Incentive amounts for 1998-99 have not been finalized, but the assumption is that amounts will be the same.

Performance Results

A composite ***performance*** measure is also calculated for all schools under the ABCs accountability plan, but this measure is not used as a criterion for awarding incentive funds to schools. Instead, schools receive the designation *School of Excellence* or *School of Distinction* if sufficient numbers of students score above grade level on End-of-Grade (EOG) and End-of-Course (EOC) tests.

All scores on EOG and EOC tests are grouped into four levels. *Level I* and *Level II* scores are considered below grade level and indicative of a student's need for additional help before he or she can be successful in the next grade or in a more advanced course. *Level III* scores mean that students are well prepared for the next grade or a more advanced course, and *Level IV* scores indicate performance well above that needed for success in the next grade or course.

If 90% or more student scores on mandated tests are in *Level III* or *Level IV*, a school is designated as a *School of Excellence*. If more than 80% but less than 90% of the scores are in *Level III* or *IV*, the school is designated as a *School of Distinction*. The following table presents the number of schools in each category of ABC results for the 1997-1999 school years.

Summary of ABCs Performance Results
for WCPSS Schools for Three Years, 1997-1999

	WCPSS			NC		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
# of Schools In ABCs Program	87	101	102	1,631	1,719	2,000
Schools of Excellence *(90% or More in Level III or IV)*	0 *0%*	5 *5.0%*	8 *7.8%*	12 *0.7%*	24 *1.4%*	47 *2.4%*
Schools of Distinction *(80%-90% in Level III or IV)*	27 *31.0%*	35 *34.7%*	39 *38.2%*	158 *9.7%*	290 *16.9%*	411 *20.6%*

NOTE: The number of NC schools in 1998 and 1999 includes charter schools and alternative schools. No high schools were included in 1997.

Across the state, no high schools achieved a 90% performance composite (meaning 90% of all scores on mandated EOC tests falling in *Levels III* or *IV*) in 1997-98, and only one high school achieved an 80% performance composite. For the current school year, 1998-1999, two WCPSS high schools, Leesville Road and Apex High, achieved a performance composite exceeding 80% and were designated *Schools of Distinction*.

Performance composites for WCPSS high schools ranged from 59% to 82%. (See page 8.)
The range of performance composites at other grade levels was 64%-94% for elementary schools and 73%-92% for middle schools.

Alternative Schools and Former K-2 Schools

In 1996-97 and 1997-98, two WCPSS schools (Carver Elementary and Knightdale Elementary) served only grades K-2 and did not administer End-of-Grade tests to students. Both of these schools sent almost all of their students to a partner school (Carver to Wendell and Knightdale to Lockhart), and ABCs Program recognition for these two schools was tied to student performance at their partner schools. In 1998-99, Carver and Knightdale became K-5 schools, and their results are reported the same as those of other elementary schools.

WCPSS' three alternative schools (Phillips High, Longview, and Mt.Vernon Redirection) serve special populations of students. When appropriate, all three schools give EOG and EOC tests to their students. However, the number of tests for a particular grade level or subject is often too small to be considered statistically reliable under the ABCs program. Therefore, the State Board of Education ties recognition and incentive awards for alternative schools to the schools sending students to them.

For the 1997-98 school year, all three alternative schools were designated as achieving *exemplary* growth.

Attachments

Attachments show ABCs growth and performance composites for WCPSS schools for the past three years, 1997-99. *Performance composites* are the percentage of all state-mandated EOG reading and math tests and EOC tests on which students scored at *Level III* or *Level IV*.

In elementary and middle schools, *growth composites* are computed using pretest to posttest differences in reading and mathematics. In grades 4 and 7, writing test results are also added to the growth composite. At the high school level, growth composites include the results of End-of-Course and writing tests, the NC Competency Test, and the NC Comprehensive Test.

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WCPSS Elementary School ABCs Results for First Three Years

	Growth Composite			Performance Composite		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
Adams Elementary	++	++	++	78.0	82.0	87.0
Apex Elementary	++	++	++	83.8	88.5	87.8
Aversboro Elem.	-	++	+	65.0	72.2	74.3
Baileywick Elem.	++	++	+	82.4	80.8	81.4
Baucom Elem.	++	++	++	83.2	87.6	88.1
Brassfield Elem.	++	++	++	77.2	86.8	84.7
Brentwood Elem.	-	++	++	66.8	75.7	73.6
Briarcliff Elem.	++	++	+	80.7	79.5	78.1
Brooks Elementary	++	++	+	77.1	79.3	73.4
Bugg Elementary	-	++	-	63.4	72.6	79.2
Carver Elementary	*	*	-	*	*	63.5
Cary Elementary	++	+	++	73.2	70.6	71.7
Combs Elementary	+	++	++	74.1	84.8	85.4
Conn Elementary	-	++	+	65.9	74.9	72.7
Creech Road Elem.	-	-	++	58.8	58.0	65.9
Davis Drive Elem.	++	++	++	87.6	92.8	94.3
Douglas Elem.	+	++	++	66.3	72.5	76.0
Durant Road Elem.	++	++	++	86.8	87.0	86.6
Farmington Woods Elem.	+	++	++	76.4	76.0	77.0
Fox Road Elementary	+	++	++	73.9	76.5	78.9
Fuller Elementary	-	+	+	60.2	70.3	73.7
Fuquay-Varina Elem.	+	++	+	70.2	74.1	69.8
Green Elementary	-	++	++	76.6	81.6	82.9
Hilburn Drive Elementary	+	+	+	80.0	76.9	82.7
Hodge Road Elementary	-	++	+	57.7	65.5	69.0
Holly Springs Elementary	-	++	++	60.5	69.8	77.8
Hunter Elementary	++	++	++	77.3	83.4	80.6
Jeffreys Grove Elem.	++	++	++	77.9	77.5	78.7
Jones Dairy Elementary	++	++	++	83.9	85.3	84.7
Joyner Elementary	+	++	++	78.5	80.8	81.9
Kingswood Elementary	-	++	++	86.6	91.0	90.9
Knightdale Elementary	*	*	-	*	*	66.8
Lacy Elementary	++	++	++	80.5	80.3	81.4
Lead Mine Elementary	++	++	-	84.2	89.9	79.7

Key: ++ Met *expected* and *exemplary*

\+ Met *expected*, but did not meet *exemplary*

\- Did not meet *expected* performance

* Did not have students in grades 3-8

WCPSS Elementary School ABCs Results for First Three Years

	Growth Composite			Performance Composite		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Leesville Road Elem.	+	++	++	76.4	83.5	80.7
Lincoln Heights Elem.	-	++	++	65.0	69.3	73.2
Lockhart Elementary	-	++	++	62.6	66.5	64.8
Lynn Road Elementary	++	++	++	70.7	81.2	77.1
Millbrook Elementary	+	++	+	61.2	73.6	73.7
Morrisville Elementary	++	++	++	86.8	91.8	92.8
North Ridge Elementary	-	++	++	70.8	76.4	81.5
Northwoods Elementary	+	++	++	75.1	86.3	83.8
Oak Grove Elementary	++	++	++	85.0	90.5	93.9
Olds Elementary	+	++	++	72.6	85.6	84.1
Olive Chapel Elementary	N/A	+	+	N/A	81.4	86.1
Penny Road Elementary	++	++	++	80.7	83.0	78.2
Pleasant Union Elem.	+	++	+	86.7	93.3	92.0
Poe Elementary	-	++	+	31.8	50.4	70.2
Powell Elementary	+	++	+	76.2	87.8	86.3
Rand Road Elementary	++	++	-	66.7	71.3	73.5
Rolesville Elementary	+	++	-	71.7	74.5	71.1
Root Elementary	++	++	++	76.0	79.4	83.9
Smith Elementary	++	++	++	70.0	75.8	77.4
Stough Elementary	+	++	++	76.6	80.0	83.6
Swift Creek Elementary	++	+	+	81.3	80.8	76.1
Timber Drive Elementary	N/A	++	++	N/A	85.3	88.2
Underwood Elementary	++	++	+	77.1	78.8	73.1
Vance Elementary	-	++	++	60.8	76.6	75.2
Vandora Springs Elem.	+	-	++	70.1	59.5	68.4
Wake Forest Elementary	-	++	+	69.6	70.2	72.0
Washington Elementary	+	++	+	72.9	78.3	77.2
Weatherstone Elem.	++	++	++	80.3	81.7	87.8
Wendell Elementary	+	++	++	65.8	69.3	72.6
West Lake Elementary	+	++	++	82.2	85.8	87.4
Wilburn Elementary	-	+	++	69.2	73.5	83.2
Wiley Elementary	++	++	++	73.9	77.0	77.1
Willow Springs Elem.	+	++	++	70.6	76.0	75.2
York Elementary	+	+	++	83.3	78.8	83.0
Zebulon Elementary	++	++	++	68.4	73.9	78.7

Key: ++ Met *expected* and *exemplary*

\+ Met *expected*, but did not meet *exemplary*

\- Did not meet *expected* performance

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WCPSS Middle School ABCs Results for First Three Years
1997-1999

	EOG and Writing Tests					
	Growth Composite			Performance Composite		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
Apex Middle	++	++	++	80.3	80.0	84.7
Carnage Middle	-	++	++	67.5	74.0	80.8
Carroll Middle	++	++	++	78.5	81.6	84.6
Daniels Middle	+	++	++	76.6	76.6	81.0
Davis Drive Middle	++	++	++	82.3	89.4	91.0
Durant Road Middle	++	++	++	85.2	86.3	88.2
East Cary Middle	++	++	++	84.2	89.4	90.4
East Garner Middle	-	+	++	64.4	66.4	74.5
East Millbrook Middle	-	+	++	62.6	72.2	75.9
East Wake Middle	-	++	++	67.8	78.6	77.0
Fuquay-Varina Middle	-	++	+	66.3	69.0	78.1
Leesville Road Middle	++	++	++	81.2	82.8	87.8
Ligon Middle	++	++	++	77.1	78.3	84.6
Martin Middle	++	++	++	81.8	83.2	87.2
North Garner Middle	+	+	-	67.0	69.3	72.6
Wake Forest-Rolesville	++	++	++	73.9	79.1	81.5
West Cary Middle	++	++	++	82.1	81.4	88.8
West Lake Middle	+	++	++	85.4	89.6	92.0
West Millbrook Middle	++	++	++	78.7	81.9	82.2
Zebulon Middle	+	-	++	67.2	68.0	75.3

Key: ++ Met *expected* and *exemplary*
+ Met *expected*, but did not meet *exemplary*
- Did not meet *expected* performance

Note: For schools with any combination of grades 3-8, the *growth composite* is computed using pretest to posttest differences in grades 3-8 in reading and mathematics. In grades 4-7, results of the NC Writing Test are also added to the growth composite. The *performance composite* for any school is the total number of scores at or above Level III in each subject included in the ABCs model, divided by the total number of scores. It is reported as a percentage.

WCPSS High School ABCs Results for the First Three Years
1997-1999

	End-of-Course, Writing, Competency, and Comprehensive Tests					
	Growth Composite			Performance Composite		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
Apex High	N/A	++	++	N/A	78.2	80.2
Athens Drive High	N/A	+	++	N/A	72.8	77.8
Broughton High	N/A	++	++	N/A	69.8	71.3
Cary High	N/A	++	++	N/A	76.0	78.3
East Wake High	N/A	+	++	N/A	60.3	59.4
Enloe High	N/A	++	++	N/A	76.7	75.5
Fuquay-Varina High	N/A	++	++	N/A	65.1	62.6
Garner High	N/A	++	++	N/A	63.6	65.8
Leesville Road High	N/A	+	++	N/A	77.8	81.5
Millbrook High	N/A	+	++	N/A	66.2	71.2
Sanderson High	N/A	+	++	N/A	71.4	73.9
Southeast Raleigh High	N/A	N/A	++	N/A	N/A	77.5
Wake Forest-Rolesville	N/A	-	++	N/A	63.3	68.6

Key: ++ Met *expected* and *exemplary*.
+ Met *expected*, but did not meet *exemplary*.
- Did not meet *expected* performance.

Note: For the 1998-99 school year, results of five additional courses (Algebra II, Geometry, Physical Science, Physics, and Chemistry) were included in the *performance composite*. Results of NC Comprehensive Tests in Reading and Mathematics (Grade 10) were added to both the performance composite and the *growth composite*, and NC High School Competency Test results were added to the growth composite.

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